



More people taking advantage of PPL's educational programs

Environmental and energy education are important elements of the Brunner Island power plant's outreach to the community. As the number and variety of these programs have expanded greatly in the last three years, so too has attendance by teachers, schoolchildren and the public.

In 2005, 15 people attended PPL programs at Brunner Island. So far this year, 745 people have come to the Brunner Island Wetlands, and trails, fields and shores around the plant.

Children and adults have come for the annual butterfly and wetlands survey, energy conservation workshops, fish farm tour, hibiscus walk, nature walks, animal tracking, the Earth Day community celebration and other popular programs.

"There's so much to see and learn about the natural features adjacent to the Brunner Island plant. We try to provide programs that highlight these surroundings," said Meg Welker, PPL's education relations director. "The area is home to a wide range of habitats, from shorelines and wetlands to fields and woods. It's popular with fishing



Teachers participate in the Wild About Fish workshop, hosted by PPL at the Brunner Island power plant.

enthusiasts and boaters."

Welker said PPL is encouraged by the increasing attendance and is reaching out to educators as they plan their curricula and professional development in the natural sciences.

For example, 17 teachers signed up for the Teaching Environmental Awareness Workshop this fall. "When we asked them how many students they reach individually and collectively, we discovered

that these 17 teachers reach more than 8,300 students annually," Welker said. "That shows how our teachers programs make an indirect impact on students.

"Interacting with the community and providing information about the natural resources at Brunner Island are key parts of our outreach and support of education," she added. "We scheduled 17 programs this year — that's almost three times the number of offerings since 2005 for our Brunner Island neighbors"

For more information about PPL's programs near Brunner Island, contact PPL naturalist Karen Ament at 717-284-6274 or kament@pplweb.com.

Brunner Island to be part of TV documentary about Pennsylvania agriculture

The good neighborly relationship between PPL's Brunner Island power plant and the Susquehanna Aquacultures fish farm will be featured on a television documentary about Pennsylvania agriculture next year.

"We researched Pennsylvania agriculture to determine all its facets and discovered that fish farming is considered agriculture," said Greg Matkosky, creative director for WVIA-TV based in Pittston, the public television station that serves northeastern Pennsylvania and the Central Susquehanna Valley.

"We wanted a unique fish story to tell and found the relationship between Susquehanna Aquacultures fish farm and Brunner Island to be among the best in the state," Matkosky said. "It also demonstrates another side to energy production and how it benefits agriculture and the economy."

Rob Foltz, manager of Safety, Health and Environmental Resources at Brunner Island, was interviewed for the program and explained how the warm water discharged from the plant is ideal to raise striped bass.

Susquehanna Aquacultures, located on PPL property next to the Brunner



Rob Foltz (right), manager of Safety, Health and Environmental Resources at Brunner Island, is interviewed for "Hearth and Harvest" by Greg Matkosky of WVIA-TV.

Island power plant, has operated under a lease with PPL since 1989. It's the only striped bass farm in the northeastern United States.

The Brunner Island/Susquehanna Aquacultures story will be part of "Hearth and Harvest," a one-hour documentary that follows a chronological year in the life of

Pennsylvania farmers. It begins with the Farm Show in Harrisburg in January and concludes with the traditional end of the harvest season. The program, which includes the history and modern challenges of farming in the state, is scheduled to be broadcast in fall 2009 on Pennsylvania Public Television Network affiliates.

PPL supports after-school program in York Haven

As part of its educational outreach in York Haven, PPL recently donated \$2,000 to support an after-school program that helps students complete their homework.

The "Study Buddy" program, supported by York Haven Mayor Keith Rode, matches students from the borough with adult volunteers associated with York Haven Elementary School who work together on homework assignments.

The York Haven Community Center hosts the program, which includes games and other fun activities for the children after the tutoring sessions are finished.



PPL's Regional Community Relations Director Jim Nulton (left), presents a check to "Study Buddy" administrators Sandy and Chip Rexrode (center) and Eileen and Keith Rode, mayor of York Haven.

Scrubber project remains on track

The Brunner Island scrubber project is on budget and will be operating by the end of 2009.

PPL employees have been testing the system, which is more than 90 percent complete on all three units. The conveyor system on Wago Road that carries limestone for use in the scrubber began in mid-September, and the first trainload of limestone will arrive in October.

The limestone and gypsum storage facilities are on Wago Road on the site of a retired ash disposal basin. Limestone will be mixed with water and sprayed onto the plant's exhaust to remove sulfur dioxide. The resulting byproduct is synthetic gypsum, which will be collected and shipped to a company that manufactures drywall.

When complete, the two scrubbers will remove nearly all of the sulfur dioxide and also will capture much of the mercury from the plant's emissions.

PPL is spending about \$700 million on the scrubbers and related equipment as part of an investment of more than \$800 million in environmental upgrades at Brunner Island.

"This scrubber project is just one example of PPL's efforts to improve air quality here and at all of our generation facilities and to maintain the reliability of our Brunner Island power plant," said Steve Marbaise, plant manager. "The project will result in a significant improvement in the quality of the air we breathe and represents a major investment in a plant that provides reliable and safe electricity, as well as good jobs for people here in York County."



Duct work is now connected to either side of the new chimney stack as part of the scrubber project.

Emissions will look different

As employees begin testing the new scrubber system at PPL Brunner Island, residents will see a noticeable change in the appearance of emissions from the plant's chimney.

When the plant's scrubber systems become operational in 2009, they will remove up to 97 percent of the sulfur dioxide from plant emissions. In the scrubbers, a chemical reaction takes place when a mixture of limestone and water is sprayed on the sulfur dioxide in the plant's exhaust.

The limestone and water react with the sulfur in the plant's exhaust to form synthetic gypsum, which will be collected and shipped to a company that manufactures drywall.

"Exhaust gases will leave the chimney at lower temperatures, so what you will see is an odorless vapor that will be visible when the plant is running," said Steve Marbaise, plant manager.

The visible emissions from the plant chimney, nearly free of sulfur dioxide, will appear white and fluffy.

Performing startups of the scrubber system is allowing PPL employees to train on and fine-tune its operation.

In addition to improving air quality, the scrubbers will create jobs and enable the Brunner Island plant to operate for many years to come.

PPL Brunner Island
Wago Road
York Haven, PA 17370

Upcoming events at Brunner Island

Nature Walk and Animal Tracking

Saturday, Dec. 6

10 a.m.

What is happening at the Brunner Island Wetlands at this time of the year, as winter settles in and the landscape changes? What animals remain here, and how do they prepare for the winter? Join us as Jim Smith, naturalist, leads us on a hike around the ponds at the wetlands. Come discover all of the exciting things to make the season come alive and learn how to identify and track the animals that remain.

This program is free. Please dress for outdoor weather and wear proper footwear for cold and wet conditions. We will meet at the Wood Duck Pavilion. Bring binoculars if you have them.

The wetlands entrance is directly across from Gate A on Wago Road. Follow the stone road until you see the sign for Wood Duck Pavilion. The GPS coordinates at the pavilion are N 40 05.755 W 076 42.287.

For additional information, contact Karen Ament at 717-284-6274 or kament@pplweb.com, or Jim Smith at 717-284-4458 or jimsmith0212@aol.com.

The Knowledge to Use Energy Wisely

Thursday, Nov. 6

7 p.m.

Presenter: Fred Gast, PPL

How does your home use energy, and what are the best ways to conserve energy and save money? Join Fred Gast, PPL's community affairs specialist, for this

informative presentation about energy-saving practices. He will discuss which methods offer the best payback as well as what alternative energy technologies are available. Explore home energy use and what you can do to conserve. There will be a hands-on demonstration, with literature on energy conservation tips. Perhaps you could even win a door prize.

This free program will be held at the nearby Holtwood Environmental Center, 9 New Village Road, Holtwood. The GPS coordinates are N39 50.333 W76 19.080. For more information, contact Karen Ament at 717-284-6274 or kament@pplweb.com.

Additional program details can be found on the Calendar of Events at www.pplpreserves.com.